

he will decide based on the fact that the tariff is destroying auto jobs that the best decision he could make for the American worker is to end the steel tariff, and to end the steel tariff now.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, of course we have an important bill before the Senate. However, one of the overriding activities, and it is unfortunate, is the discussion of our efforts in Iraq and probably the highest priority now, the fight over terrorism.

It is a challenge, of course, to deal with terrorism, which is not only focused in one place but particularly in that part of the world. We have a commitment to win on our terms. We are highly committed.

Our world changed September 11. The things attached to September 11 went beyond Iraq, went beyond Afghanistan. We are dedicated to complete our work there. We are dedicated to completing the job we have begun. Everyone understands that. It is a difficult task. Never before have our troops done such a wonderful job. We have ahead following up with stability in Iraq. It is a long-term, difficult job.

We have heard stated our involvement in Iraq is based on fraud put forth in Texas. This is unreal and something that we do not need to put up with in the Senate.

Our involvement with Iraq goes back a long time, to the gulf war. Our troops did a great job there. We worked with Iraq following that. They failed to agree with the United Nations agreement on the followup. So obviously, there were many reasons to do something with Saddam Hussein. I don't think there is any question about that.

The key to Iraq is winning the war on terrorism. That is why we are there. The President has asked for a large amount of money to fund the war on terrorism. We knew that would be the case. Certainly of the \$87 billion, some is for our troops. No one argues with the notion we have to give our troops the support they need. The majority of the money will go to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan while we continue to give them the resources they need to continue to win.

There are also other needs if we are going to finally get this country to be self-supportive, which is our goal, and to do away with terrorism so it is not a source of danger around the world. We have to be committed. The stakes are high. And our spending has been high.

We have been, since September 11, in some unusual arrangements. I am serious about trying to control spending and to keep it within the budget, but when there are extraordinary circumstances, you have to take extraordinary steps. And certainly September 11 is extraordinary. Certainly the economy now, which we are trying to strengthen, is extraordinary. The terrorism that continues to take place is extraordinary.

So if we are to be successful in this global war, we must be willing to pay that price, and we must do the job correctly. I think that is particularly important after we are there. I guess before we began, you could talk about all kinds of things. The fact is, we are there. The fact is, we are committed. The fact is, we have done a great deal. We need to continue to see it through and see our duty through.

Where are we today? We are winning the war in Iraq. The situation remains dangerous, of course, and it is not settled, it is not steady. But great progress has been made.

It is interesting how much of a different picture you receive from people who have been to Iraq and then come back and tell what they have seen and what they feel as compared to what you see on the news nightly. I understand that bad things are always news, and so that is not a new idea. But progress is being made. There is no food crisis, no refugee crisis, no public health crisis.

The coalition is helping Iraq establish a representative basis for a democratic government of their own, something they, of course, have never had. And it is part of our goal for the future. The coalition authorities continue to help repair the vital infrastructure all across the country. We are seeing increasingly other countries becoming involved. I think soon we will see the U.N. be more involved than it is now. Coalition forces are aggressively hunting down members of the former regime.

Unfortunately, some would rather ignore the achievements, I think, for political purposes. That is too bad. I understand there can be differences of view. That is perfectly legitimate. But when you get the sense that sort of thing is being designed toward an election in 2004, it is a little disturbing.

The former regime in Iraq had ties to al-Qaida; there is no question. It harbored and supported terrorists; there is no question. It possessed weapons and used weapons of mass destruction. They had done that; there is no question. They were a threat to the region and the world. We know that was the case.

When we decided to use military force, the President made the best decision he could make. To suggest this was dreamed up in Texas for political purposes is not realistic, nor is it fair. Using the best information available at the time, the President made his decision—a tough decision. Can you imagine having to make that kind of decision following September 11?

So it is a very difficult issue. But I think, truly—and my only point is—we can disagree, but we ought to disagree taking into account the facts, letting people make their own judgments. I understand that. But I think to portray the President as deliberately misleading the public is not a reasonable approach and one that should not take place among our associates. The war on

terrorism takes time and patience and dollars, and we must see it through.

Mr. President, I feel very strongly about this issue, so I wanted to make those comments today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAIRD LARSON AND BOB DUXBURY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to offer my warmest regards and sincere congratulations to Laird Larson of Clark, SD, and Bob Duxbury of Wessington, South Dakota, on their receipt of South Dakota State University's Eminent Farmer award for 2003 in Brookings last Friday night.

Laird Larson and Bob Duxbury are well known and highly respected within SD, not only as dedicated farmers, but also as innovative community leaders. I know of no individuals more deserving of this recognition than Laird and Bob.

Laird and his wife, Kathy, have farmed in Clark County, SD, for almost 30 years. They are active in a number of farm organizations, including the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, SDCIA, where Laird has served on the county board of directors for nearly 20 years and as State president. This year the SDCIA recognized Laird as its Premier Certified Seed Grower.

Laird also has a long history promoting agricultural education. He has raised funds for renovating greenhouses at South Dakota State University and is currently working to develop a seed science center at the school.

Laird and Kathy Larson understand the unique character of rural life and have passed on its values to their three accomplished children: Heidi, who works for Wisconsin Crop Improvement; Shane, who I had the pleasure of getting to know when he worked on my Senate staff several years ago; and Sara, who is majoring in special education at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. The Larson family reflects the strength and character of rural life in America today.

Bob Duxbury and his wife, Rose, farm and ranch near Wessington, in central South Dakota. In a landscape dotted with farms, ranches and small communities, farmers and ranchers not only are called upon to feed our Nation with safe and affordable food, but in many instances are also called upon to serve in public office. Bob exemplifies that dual commitment, standing today as a shining example of Thomas Jefferson's enduring ideal of the citizen farmer.

Bob's commitment to agriculture started at a very young age, with his own participation in 4-H and continued with his degree from South Dakota State University in 1956, which he used to teach animal science. He served as the State's Secretary of Agriculture from 1975 to 1978 and was a member of the State Fair Board from 1971 to 1975. He also has been a member of the South Dakota legislature for nearly 20 years, many of those in leadership positions.